

'Castro Freed Cuba from U. S.' Is 'Correct' Answer in Havana

Regime Rewrites History to Bolster Campaign to Indoctrinate Youth— Teachers Trained in New Duties

By R. HART PHILLIPS

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HAVANA, June 6 — The lower-grade classrooms in Havana.

teacher stood before a third grade class in a Havana public school.

"What did José Martí do?" she asked.

A boy of 8 raised his hand eagerly and the teacher gave him permission to speak. "José Martí freed Cuba from the Spaniards," he said.

"And what did Fidel Castro do?" the teacher asked.

"Fidel freed Cuba from the United States, which seized all our land," the boy said triumphantly.

That was the "correct" answer. The lesson went on.

U. S. Is Accused

"What happened on Feb. 15, 1898?"

A tiny girl raised her hand and gave her answer in a thin voice. "The United States blew up the Maine so they could intervene in Cuba," she parroted.

Thus the hate campaign against the United States goes on among the children and teen-agers of Cuba. The Castro regime is bending every effort to capture the minds of youth.

The pattern of training is similar to that used by many totalitarian governments. It includes indoctrination in schools, on radio and television and in the press; military training from 7 years of age; a hate campaign, this time directed against the United States; the organization of work brigades of boys from 14 to 18; and meetings and fiestas, all with a political purpose.

The Government feels that once the youth of Cuba is indoctrinated with hatred toward the United States the relations between the two countries will be permanently damaged.

Educational System Altered

The educational system has been radically changed in structure and purpose. Teachers are being instructed to instill in their students a desire to till the soil and work with their hands rather than become professionals. The teachers are also being taught methods to use in developing hatred of the United States and hero worship for Fidel Castro as the "saviour of Cuba."

Last Jan. 28 the birthday of José Martí, Cuba's most beloved patriot, who was killed by the Spaniards many years before Cuba obtained her independence from Spain through the Span-

ish daily classes for two months to teach them the methods and aims of Premier Castro's new educational system. Hundreds of new teachers are being prepared for schools being built in the interior. Some complaints are heard that the educational level of these teachers is not up to the former standard in Cuba.

When schools open next September, the Government plans to have new textbooks ready for the grade schools. All history books are being changed to conform with the attitude of the Dr. Castro's officials, who have repeatedly declared the United States is "Cuba's greatest enemy."

Among the changes to be made in the educational system, according to reports, will be the elimination of kindergartens. The "specialty" teachers, who taught music, English, domestic science, manual training and other subjects, have already been eliminated. These teachers are being utilized for regular teaching in the lower grades. Teachers in each classroom will give instruction in all subjects. English and music are being eliminated, it is said.

It is planned, according to reports, to have as many chil-

dren over 5 years old as possible live at big scholastic centers, such as the one being established in Havana at the former Camp Columbia Army Headquarters. This is being done, it is said, so that the children will be under the influence of the teachers and not their families.

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